

THE WILSON BULLETIN.

*A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study of Living Birds.
Official Organ of the Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz
Association.*

Edited by **LYNDS JONES.**

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

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EDITORIAL.

The index for the present volume will be issued with the March, 1903, BULLETIN.

The present number of the Bulletin marks the close of its ninth volume since we began the present plan of publication. From a small beginning our official organ has come to fill a place in the study of our birds which we may well point to with pride. While the development has been slow it has been sure. As the work of our organization has developed papers of more than usual value have been published as a part of the regular series of Bulletins. These papers or studies along particular lines of work show what may be accomplished by combined efforts upon such phases of study as few if any of us might hope to compass alone. In the broader subjects of ecological studies there is a field for work of the highest value and interest which we can well consider. The systematic work is well cared for by those best fitted for it, and may be safely left to them in the main, while we develop the work of more immediate significance to the economic interests of the country. Some of these are such studies as the food habits, and closely associated with this the time during which the birds are present, and their numbers during that time. Food habits are known to differ, with many species, during different times of the year and under different conditions. Other more or less closely related subjects are the period of incubation and the period during which the young remain in the nest, and the time during which they are fed after

leaving the nest, the average number of eggs to the clutch and the average number of young reared. Little has been learned about the chief enemies of the most of our small birds, either during the nesting period or during the life of the birds. In the realm of psychology there is room for any and all. Good work can be done determining how best to restore confidence in us men and so increase the numbers of native birds about us. Finally, none of us can hope to do everything, nor many of us much, but each one will be certain to find something which his regular occupation makes possible and profitable, in the way of bird studies. If we can put ourselves to that one thing we shall be making contributions to our knowledge of the birds as truly as he who follows it as a profession. Put what you have learned into print for the sake of others.

Is there not some one among our active members who could undertake the study of some species or group of species over the whole of the country, with the co-operation of his fellow members and others, having in view a finished report for a special Bulletin? There is at present no one at work on such a problem. Some of our common birds make fine subjects for wide and careful study. Any other topic which may appeal to any person might well be pursued in the same manner. Each of us can be of great service both locally and in general by carefully working up a list of the birds of our own locality. The editor would be pleased to receive for publication several such local lists for the forthcoming volume of our Bulletin. They are both interesting and valuable, forming the basis for comparisons in contiguous as well as widely separated localities.

The March number of the BULLETIN will contain a list of all members of our organization, and will probably be accompanied by a copy of the Constitution and By-laws revised to date. Will all members, both Active and Associate, be careful to note the address on the envelope enclosing this number of the BULLETIN, and send any correction that may be necessary to the editor before February 15, 1903. The names of members who are more than six months in arrears for dues will not appear on this printed list.

The outlook for the BULLETIN and our work for 1903 grows brighter with the waning year. Unless all calculations fail we shall be able to secure one or more illustrations for each number. We feel warranted in saying that the present high standard of the BULLETIN will not only be maintained but that improvements will be made without increasing the subscription price, which is hardly more than nominal. If the interest of every member and every reader of the BULLETIN could find expression

in securing but one new member or but one new subscriber, we should become self-supporting at once. We can offer liberal terms to any who are willing to canvas for new subscribers. Write the editor for terms.

We are in the midst of the winter season again, when there is stagnation in bird study for the large majority of bird students. This ought not so to be. While the winter tramps will not yield so many species as at any other time of year, it will often result in more novel experiences and in learning more useful things about the birds than a whole summer's work will. Elsewhere in this number you will find a call for New Year horizons. Will you not consider this a personal matter and make sure of some outdoor study of the birds about you on the first day of the year 1903, to begin the year right?

We are pained to learn of the death of Mr. Chester Barlow, late editor of *The Condor*, on November 6, at Mountain View, Santa Clara county, California. His career as a bird student was marked by enthusiasm and accurate work. His loss will be a serious one to the Cooper Club.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1903.

The election resulted in the selection of the following officers for 1903. A full statement of the election will appear in the Reports of Officers for 1903, to be issued with the March Bulletin.

President—Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio.

Vice-President—N. Hollister, Delavan, Wis.

Secretary—John W. Daniel Jr., 3146 Q St., N. W. Washington, D. C.

Treasurer—Frank L. Burns, Berwyn, Penn.

Executive Council—

John H. Sage.

H. C. Oberholser.

W. E. Saunders.

GENERAL NOTES.

NOTES FROM SOUTHERN OHIO.—MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaidura macroura*). This is an abundant resident in Scioto county, even in the severest winters at sheltered places. It feeds mostly on corn and wheat, which have been scattered in the fields. These two grains form almost its whole food. Only during October have I observed weed seeds composing more than half of its food, yet the Mourning Dove is by no means injurious to crops. Observations based upon stomach and craw contents are not entirely reliable in regard to the food of birds, since some food is so quickly digested that it cannot be